National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			
historic name Speight-Byn	um House		
other names/site number			
2. Location West side SR	1231. 0.4 mile		
	tion with SR 1232	N	Alpat for publication
	CION WICH SK 1232	N/A not for publication X vicinity	
city, town Walstonsburg state North Carolina code	NC county Greene	code 079	
state North Carolina code	NC county Greene	code 077	<u>zip code</u> 27883
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resou	rces within Property
X private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	2	10 buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		3 structures
paga . add.d.	object		objects
		2	13 Total
Name of related multiple property listi	na:	Number of contrib	outing resources previously
N/A		listed in the National Register	
		noted in the realis	
4. State/Federal Agency Certific	ation		
	and meets the procedural and profe ts does not meet the National Re		
In my opinion, the property mee	ts does not meet the National Re	gister criteria. See co	ontinuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	al .		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
. National Park Service Certifica	ation		
hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register.			
See continuation sheet.			
determined eligible for the National			
Register. See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.			
Trampued from the Matienal Register			
removed from the National Register			
other, (explain:)			
	Signature of t	he Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/secondary structure	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/secondary structure	
AGRICULTURE/storage AGRICULTURE/animal facility	AGRICULTURE/storage AGRICULTURE/animal facility	
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
Greek Revival	foundation Brick walls Weatherboard	
	roof Tin other Wood	
	otner	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Speight-Bynum House is a ca. 1850, two-story frame Greek Revival style plantation house located in the slightly-rolling farmland of Greene County and surrounded by fields, woods and pastures. Although State Road 1231 now runs just to the east of the house (with the unpaved driveway perpendicular to it), the residence was originally approached through a north/south allee of large oak and pine trees. most of which still exist. The house sits in a raised yard framed by brick retaining walls and wooded with mature pecans, oaks, pines and To the rear is a frame smokehouse contemporary with the other trees. main house as well as several other, twentieth century outbuildings, while at the east of the house is a twentieth century frame garage and a large scuppernong grape arbor. Located to the west of the dwelling is a grouping of twentieth century farm outbuildings, most built prior to World War II, which help to provide an appropriate agriculturerelated setting for the farmhouse and do not detract from its significance. The main house and its outbuildings are well-maintained and have had relatively few alterations.

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INVENTORY LIST

<u>Kev</u>

C = Contributing
NC = Noncontributing

(C) 1. Main House

The Speight-Bynum House is a ca. 1850, two-story, double-pile, central hall plan frame Greek Revival style residence. Originally formed of brick piers, the foundation has been infilled with brick. At the four corners of the main block are wide pilasters which have molded bases and stepped capitals. A slightly-unusual feature are the vertical corner boards which frame these pilasters. The deep eaves of the low, hipped standing seam tin roof contain widely-spaced, scroll-sawn brackets which are paired over the corner pilasters. Interior chimneys of painted brick with slightly-corbelled caps are located in either side slope of the roof.

The symmetrically-arranged, three-bay front elevation has large six-over-six windows whose surrounds are framed with a Greek ovolo backband. On both levels, these windows have louvered blinds. Across the front of the house is a one-story, hipped porch supported by four sturdy, panelled posts with bases and stepped capitals. The panels on these posts are round-arched at the top. Like the main roof, the deep eaves of the porch have scroll-sawn brackets which are paired over the posts.

The central front entrance, framed with a Greek ovolo backband, has sidelights and transoms, the glass of which has an enamel overlay in a quatrefoil pattern (some of the panes are modern reproductions). The heavy, six-panel front door has two long panels at the top and two square ones at the bottom, with cusped square panels at the lock rail.

The west elevation of the house is two bays deep and echoes the detailing of the front elevation. On the east elevation, a one-story, low-hipped frame addition built in 1938 runs the full length from just behind the corner pilaster. This addition has paired six-over-one windows. Above the addition, the east elevation repeats the detailing of the west side.

According to the current owners, the rear (north elevation) of the house originally had a hipped, one-story porch that echoed the front porch. A semi-detached kitchen, probably dating from the late

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nineteenth century, was also located at the rear. During the 1950s this kitchen was moved to the northwest corner of the yard and additions were made across the rear, including a one-story kitchen, a two-story bathroom tower and a one-story, screened porch. Elements of the original porch appear to be preserved in the latter. Also added to the rear was a narrow, stuccoed chimney.

The interior of the earliest portion of the house has a central hall plan with two rooms on either side. The wide central hall is terminated by a doorway matching the detailing of the front entrance, but which now opens into the 1950s breakfast room. Rising in a straight run from the front to the rear along the west side of the hall, the wide stairway has a handsome turned and facetted newel post, wide molded handrail, turned and facetted balusters and a continuous scroll-sawn string bracket. Doorways in the hall, and throughout the downstairs, have three-part surrounds with shouldered architraves. The doors, except for the front and rear, are four-panel with applied. Greek ovolo moldings, cast iron hinges and mortise locks. High baseboards with molded caps are also used throughout the house.

The right front room on the first floor has a low-relief plaster cornice with modillions set on end in the frieze, together with a palmette-ornamented, cast plaster ceiling medallion. Both are original. Also in the room is a simple post and lintel Greek Revival mantel with a slight arch to the frieze. The Greek ovolo-molded window surrounds have panels below them. A large, framed opening has been cut in the east wall to connect it to the 1938 additon. The rear east room contains the same mantel and woodwork, but has no ornamental plaster. Closets are located on both sides of the fireplace in this room.

On the west side of the hall, the front room has been altered slightly through the installation of a 1950s Colonial Revival mantel in place of the Greek Revival one. The closets on either side of the fireplace have also been altered, one to recessed bookshelves and cabinets and the other into a passageway to the rear room. A shallow chairrail has also been added to this room. The rear, west room has the same trim, including an added chairrail and small crown molding, but no mantel.

The second level of the house has the same plan, but is slightly more-simply detailed. The door surrounds are two-part, without shouldering, and the post and lintel mantels are narrower and more vertical.

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(C) 2. Smokehouse (ca. 1850)

Tall, hipped-roofed frame smokehouse topped with a wooden finial. A one-story, shed-roofed covering with square posts shelters the south and west sides of the smokehouse and has a storeroom built into the southeast corner. Both the main door and the storeroom door are board and batten, hung on strap hinges. Inside the smokehouse are three tiers of hanging joists.

(NC) 3. Pumphouse (ca. 1940)

Small, gable-roofed frame building with board and batten door, brick foundation.

(NC) 4. Garage (ca. 1940)

Gable-roofed, frame double garage adjacent to house. Arched opening without doors.

(NC) 5. Kitchen (ca. 1900)

Gable-roofed frame former kitchen building with shed addition to north and modern shed front porch. Originally semi-detached extension of main house, moved in 1950s. Earliest portion one room with large turn-of-the-century post and lintel mantel. Beaded tongue and groove interior. Ghost mark of original chimney on west end.

(NC) 6. Chicken House (ca. 1940)

Rectangular, shed-roofed, concrete block building in woods to north of house.

(NC) 7. <u>Pack House</u> (ca. 1935)

Rectangular, one and a half-story frame building with standing seam tin gambrel roof and board and batten doors.

(NC) 8. Storage Building (ca. 1900)

Small, gable-roofed frame storage building with four panel door and six-over-six windows.

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(NC) 9. Equipment Shed (ca. 1930)

Rectangular, gable-roofed frame building sheathed in agricultural tin roofing and with tin roof. Large opening with sliding door and arched openings without doors.

(NC) 10. <u>Barn</u> (ca. 1930)

Two-story, gable-roofed frame barn with tin roof and sheathed in agricultural tin roofing. Open sheds on side elevations. Board and batten doors on front at both levels.

(NC) 11. Storage Building (ca. 1930)

Small, one-story, gable-roofed frame building with tin roof and sheathed in agricultural tin roofing.

(NC) 12. Animal Shed (ca. 1930)

Rectangular, shed-roofed frame building with one side open to fenced barnyard. Roofed and sheathed in agricultural tin roofing.

(NC) 13. Grain Storage Bin (ca. 1970)

Prefabricated, conical grain storage bin of corrugated steel.

(NC) 14. Grain Storage Bin (ca. 1970)

Prefabricated, conical grain storage bin of corrugated steel.

(NC) 15. Grain Storage Bin (ca. 1970)

Prefabricated, conical grain storage bin of corrugated steel.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop	perty in relation to other properties:	
nationally	statewide X locally	
	-	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C	Пр	
Application visital integration of monta		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF DG N/A	
Ontena Considerations (Exceptions)		
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	ca. 1850	
Architecture	Ca. 1030	<u>ca. 1850</u>
		Sh was a supplied to the suppl
		440 440 440 440 440 440 440 440 440 440
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Cignificant Porson	Architect/Builder	
Significant Person N/A	Unknown	
11/ 11	Officitowif	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Speight-Bynum House, almost certainly built in the early 1850s, is a prominent member of a small, but important, group of well-crafted Greek Revival plantation houses built in antebellum Greene County. These houses represent the county's relatively prosperous midnineteenth century agricultural society. For approximately forty years, the house was the seat of a substantial farm owned by prominent Greene County citizen James Pell Speight (1815-1891), who served in the North Carolina Senate from 1852-1861. The farm at one time contained more than 2,000 acres. Today, the house is the centerpiece of a farm which contains approximately 458 acres of the Speight land, although not all of this land has been in continuous association with the house and its owners. The twelve-acre tract being nominated with the house contains several domestic and agricultural outbuildings built primarily before World War II, which help to provide an appropriate setting for the Speight-Bynum House and are considered non-contributing only because they post-date the period of significance for the house.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Speight-Bynum House dates to the early 1850s when James Pell Speight (1815-1891) had a substantial two-story, frame Greek Revival-style plantation house built on a 400-acre tract of land he had received from his father in 1846. J. P. Speight was a son of the prominent Methodist minister Rev. Seth Speight (1781-1854). In the deed of conveyance, Rev. Speight noted that he was giving the land to his son in part because of "... services rendered for the last two or three years during affliction ..." He also deeded thirteen slaves to his son [Greene County deed book 16, p. 30; tombstones in Speight family cemetery, located behind Seth Speight House on south side SR 1232 southwest of Speight-Bynum House].

J. P. Speight was married in 1848 to Mary Jane Wooten, but there were no children of this union. The 1850 U. S. census shows the young couple living near Speight's father, although it is not clear where their residence was located. At that time, Speight owned some nineteen slaves, a number which appears to be slightly above the average for Greene County. Of his 400 acres, 160 were improved, while 240 were in woodland. The principal products of the farming operation seem to have been largely of a subsistence nature, with Indian corn, peas and beans, and Irish and sweet potatoes making up the greater part of the crops [Marriage License, Bynum papers; U. S. Census, 1850, population, agriculture and slave schedules].

In 1852, J. P. Speight was elected to the state Senate from Greene County, a position he retained until 1861 [Creech - pp. 557-558]. During this same decade, the size of Speight's plantation increased to 560 acres, 250 of which were improved. The number of slaves owned by Speight had also increased, to thirty-four [U. S. census, 1860, agriculture and slave schedules]. This surge in the amount of real and personal property owned by Speight may be attributable in part to the 1854 death of his father, from whom he probably inherited some of this property.

The food crops noted in the 1850 census recurred in 1860, but the ten bushels of Irish potatoes had increased to 1,500 bushels, while sweet potato production had risen from 100 bushels to an estimated 300 bushels. More importantly, the Speight plantation now produced seventy-five bushels of rye, 650 bushels of wheat, and twenty 400-pound bales of cotton, a significant growth in cash crops [U. S. Census, 1860, agriculture schedule].

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The population schedule of the 1860 U. S. Census noted that nine-vear-old Abby [sic| Wooten was living with the Speights. This appears to have been Appie Wooten, the much younger sister of Mary Jane Wooten Speight [U. S. Census, 1860, population schedule; will book 1, p. 218]. Census records indicate that, at sundry times until their deaths in the early 1890s, the Speights had various family members living with them in the large house, including one of his sisters, several nieces and nephews, and a person who probably was Mrs. Speight's sister-in-law [U. S. Census, 1870, 1880, population schedules].

In the years following the Civil War, Speight, probably by necessity, made some changes in his farming operations, although the total acreage of the farm remained virtually unchanged. He added fifteen sheep to the livestock raised on the farm, substituted production of oats for wheat and rye, and increased the yield of cotton to thirty 450-pound bales of cotton. Ten years later, the size of the Speight farm had grown to approximately 2,500 acres with 2,100 acres in cultivation. In 1879, Speight paid out eight hundred dollars in wages Most of the laborers were black. for farm labor. Sheep were still raised on the farm, producing seventeen fleeces totaling sixty-eight pounds in weight. Much of the improved acreage appears to have been either fallow or in pasture for livestock, as fewer than 120 acres seem to have been used to produce the corn, cotton and potatoes which Speight also had seventy-five apple trees and were the main crops. twenty-five peach trees [U. S. Census, 1870, 1880, agriculture schedules!.

James Pell Speight died in 1891, and the <u>Wilson Advance</u>, quoting a report from the <u>Goldsboro Argus</u>, called him "one of the most valuable and esteemed citizens that the good old county of Greene has produced in a century. Prominent and active in his vigorous manhood he accomplished much for his people in public life" | "Died"]. Speight's 1888 will was an involved document by which he left a life estate in some of his property to Appie Wooten Bynum, with most of his estate to be divided among her children. In an 1891 codicil, he changed the terms of his will, stipulating "that all of my estate shall go to my wife Mary J. Speight and her sister Appie Bynum during the term of their natural lives and then to be equally divided between the children of said Appie Bynum . . " [will book 1, pp. 218].

Mary Jane Speight died just two years after her husband's death, probably before J. P. Speight's estate was completely settled. Appie Bynum apparently received the entirety of the Speight lands, including 1,079 acres "known as the J. P. Speight home tract and the old Seth

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Speight-Bynum House Greene County, NC Section number 3. Page 8.3

Speight tract . . . "[Speight cemetery; deed book 21, p. 218]. Appie Bynum (1851-1924) was the wife of Peter A. Bynum. The Bynums apparently lived on and farmed a 200-acre tract of land sold them in 1881 by J. P. Speight. Their farm was located west of Speight's father's house, which stands southwest of the Speight-Bynum House [deed book 8, p. 3]. The 1880 U. S. census shows the Bynums living in Speight's Bridge Township with their four children, Hattie, James, Richard, and Allen. A fourth son, Robert William, was born the following year [U. S. Census, 1880, population schedule; Speight cemetery].

It is believed that the Bynums moved to James P. Speight's house after his death and that of his widow. Appie Bynum continued to occupy the house with her children after her husband's death in 1898 [U. S. Census, 1900, population schedule; Speight cemetery]. In 1903, she sold land in the northern section of the property for a right of way to the Raleigh and Pamlico Railroad (later the Norfolk and Southern), and a small community about one mile northeast of the Speight-Bynum House was named "Appie" in her honor [Creech - p. 298]. By 1910, she had moved to the nearby town of Wilson to live with her son James, and two years later she began dividing her Greene County property among her children [U. S. Census, 1910, population schedule; deed book 78, pp. 103, 106, 114 and 117].

Mrs. Bynum conveyed the Speight-Bynum House to her youngest son, R. W. Bynum (1881-1927), who had apparently been living there in 1910 with his wife, Cora Wooten Bynum, and their two-year-old son, R. W. Bynum, Jr. [deed book 78, p. 106; U. S. Census, 1910, population schedule]. They later had three more sons [will book 3, p. 138]. Appie Wooten Bynum died in 1924, some time after moving back to Greene County to live with R. W. Bynum, who had continued to live in the house and farm his portion of the property. The last of Appie Bynum's children still living when she died, R. W. Bynum survived his mother by only three years ["Mrs. Appie Bynum Dead;" Speight cemetery].

In his will, R. W. Bynum, Sr., noted that he had previously provided for his wife "by giving her my home place, team and all farming implements that belong to same. . " [will book 2, p. 211]. According to her will, Cora Bynum (died 31 October 1942) requested that her oldest son, R. W. Bynum, Jr., continue to live with her in the residence and assist her with the farm operation, promising that she would leave the house to him in her will. In the will, it was stipulated that he should receive, without compensation to the estate, ". . . the home where I now live in Speight's Bridge Township, including and consisting of the residence, outbuildings and garden

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plot to be cut off by him as he directs, and not to exceed in all five acres" [will book 3, p. 138].

The remainder of the property was to be divided among the four sons. By the time the final division was made in 1953, R. W. Bynum, Jr., had died, and his portion of the estate went to his three children [deed book 270, p. 587]. Described in his obituary as a "farmer and landowner," R. W. Bynum, Jr., (1908-1951) was married to the former Helen Tyson, who was responsible in the early 1950s for a number of alterations to the house, including the construction of rear additions and minor interior remodeling. She and her husband had built a onestory wing on the east elevation in 1938 and numerous farm-related outbuildings, including tenant houses, in the early 1940s ["Deaths and Funerals;" Bynum interviews].

In the division of Cora Bynum's estate, the children of R. W. Bynum, Jr., received the tract of land which contained the main house. R. W. Bynum III later purchased the interests of his brother and sister in this part of the property and is the present owner and occupant of the house. He has also acquired additional land originally associated with the house, assembling a 458-acre parcel which is part of the larger property he farms [deed book 270, p. 587; deed book 439, p. 948; Bynum interviews].

Architectural Context

Greene County remains, for the most part, a sparsely settled, largely rural county whose economy is predominantly agricultural. It retains a small core of houses dating from the late eighteenth century through the sixth decade of the nineteenth century and representing the principal residential forms and architectural styles from this period, mainly late Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and Greek Revival/Italianate. They were associated with plantations and farms of varying sizes.

Although there has not been a comprehensive inventory of historic resources in Greene County, enough reconnaissance survey has been completed to identify a distinctive group of mid-nineteenth century plantation seats in the county. These well-crafted houses, generally Greek Revival in style and form, but with some Italianate features, reflect the relatively prosperous mid-nineteenth century agricultural society of the county.

Several of these houses appear to have been built by the same, unknown builder. In addition to the general features shared by the other

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Greek Revival plantation houses, they share specific elements and an overall treatment that is distinctive. Included in this group are the William Edmundson House and the Lane House in Bullhead Township, the Harvey House in Snow Hill Township, Grimsley Plantation in Olds Township, the Speight-Bynum House, and possibly the Tom Dixon House near Farmville [Creech - pp. 284, 292, 548, 553-558; survey files for Grimsley Plantation and Tom Dixon House; <u>Historic and Architectural Resources</u> - pp 9-1 - 9-8].

All of these houses have a two-story, double-pile form with a low, hipped roof of almost identical pitch, punctuated by symmetrically-arranged interior chimneys. All have wide corner pilasters (some are panelled) trimmed with corner boards, and all have bracketted cornices with the brackets paired over the corners. Most have one-story, full-width porches with square posts, mostly with arched panels, but Grimsley Plantation, and probably the Lane House, have or had two-story porches with the same detailing. At least the Speight-Bynum House and the Harvey House both had hipped porches across the rear. The three-bay front elevations of these houses have a central entrance with sidelights and transom, not always entirely identical, but very similar in moldings and arrangement.

The most highly-developed of these residences is Grimsley Plantation in Olds Township. Unlike the others in the group, it has a full two-story gabled portico across the front, as well as a full entablature. The portico, however, uses the same posts with arched panels and the same scroll-sawn brackets on the other houses. On the interior, Grimsley Plantation has finishes which, while not identical in all respects to the Speight-Bynum House, are so similar as to mark it as the work of the same craftsman. The turned and facetted balusters as well as the three-part surrounds with shoulders are identical to those used at Speight-Bynum.

A later Greene County example of this house form is the Titus Carr House near Castoria (National Register). By the early 1870s date of the Carr House, however, the proportions had become less robust and the detailing more Italianate in feel.

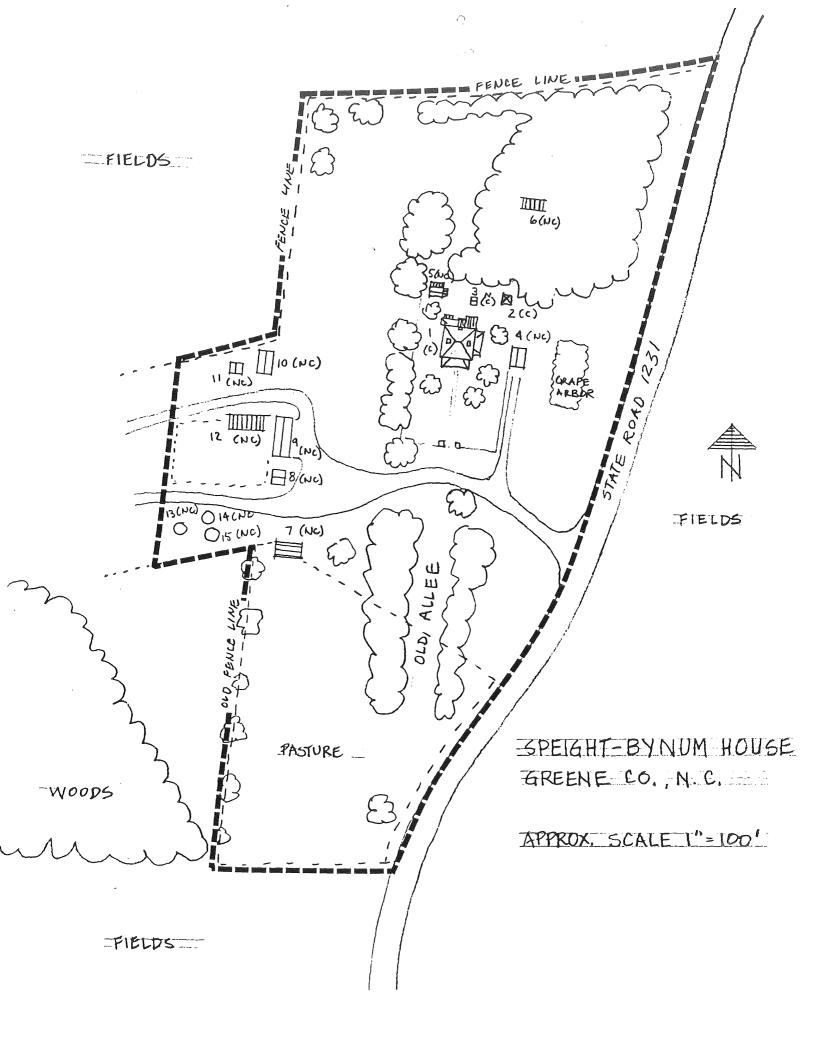
	X See continuation sheet			
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Driver described of a little and the			
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	Primary location of additional data: X State historic preservation office			
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency			
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency			
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government			
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University			
Survey #	Other			
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Specify repository:			
Nocold #				
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of property <u>approx. 12</u>				
UTM References				
A 118 241941610 31941141410 B Zone Easting Northing	1 8 2 4 9 6 6 0 3 9 4 1 3 8 0 Zone Easting Northing			
	1 8 2 4 9 3 4 0 3 9 4 1 0 4 0			
	See continuation sheet			
Verbal Boundary Description				
The property being nominated consists of an appr	coximately twelve-acre tract of land			
as outlined by the dashed line on the accompanyi				
one inch equals 100 feet. The map was drawn fro				
property and the United States Geological Survey	map.			
	See continuation sheet			
Boundary Justification				
The property being nominated is an approximately	•			
appropriate setting for the main house. It includes the yard surrounding the house				
with the immediate outbuildings, the allee which formerly was the principal approach				
to the house, a pasture adjacent to the yard, and a group of farm-related outbuildings to the southwest of the house.				
to the bouthwest of the house.	See continuation sheet			
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title <u>David R. Black, Architectural Historian; Allison H. Black, Architectural Historian</u> organization <u>Black & Black, Preservation Consultants</u> date <u>December 10, 1991</u>				
street & number 620 Wills Forest Street				
city or town Raleigh	state North Carolina_zip code 27605			

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Speight-Bynum House
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Section number 9. Page 9.1

- Bynum, Mr. and Mrs. R. W., III. Route 2, Stantonsburg, North Carolina. Allison and David Black interviews, 13 September and 11 October 1991. Also family papers in their possession.
- Creech, James M. <u>History of Greene County, North Carolina</u>. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979.
- "Deaths and Funerals." (Raleigh, N. C.) <u>News and Observer</u>, 28 October 1951, p. 6.
- "Died." The Wilson Advance, 9 April 1891, p. 3.
- Greene County Register of Deeds and Clerk of Superior Court. Deed books, plats and maps, and will books. Originals in Greene County courthouse, Snow Hill, N. C.; microfilm copies in State Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
- <u>Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin</u>, Appendix for Region O & P. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1977.
- "Mrs. Appie Bynum Dead." (Kinston, N. C.) <u>Daily Free Press</u>, 9 June 1924, p. 8.
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Division of Archives and History. Survey and Planning Branch. Survey files for Greene County.
- Speight Family Cemetery. South side SR 1232, 0.5 mile west of junction with SR 1231, southeast of Rev. Seth Speight House.
- United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Greene County, North Carolina census records, 1840-1910, population, slave and agriculture schedules. 1910 miracode index for North Carolina.



COP Life

SPEIGHT-BYNUM HOUSE GREENE CO., N.C. STANTONS BURG QUAD,

A- N: 3941440 E: 249460 C- N: 3941000 E: 249520

B- N:3941380 E: 249660 D- N:3941040 E: 249340

